



## 2004 NACo Achievement Award

### Route Mapper/Places of Interest Guide

Enterprise Applications Division – Geographic Information Systems Team  
Montgomery County Department of Technology Services

The Montgomery County, Maryland Department of Technology Services-Geographic Information Systems (DTS-GIS) team developed the Montgomery County Route Mapper (RMAP) and the Places of Interest (PLOI) Guide to enable Web visitors or customers to locate a street address, to find a Place of Interest within Montgomery County, MD, and to generate maps with travel directions, time estimates, and distances. The RMAP and PLOI Guide also enable visitors to find the nearest PLOI by address or to search for a PLOI by title, by place name, or by category. The search results returned to the customer provide contact information, including the name, address, city, zip code, phone, and Web site, for over 1,820 places of interest located within Montgomery County, MD. These places were organized into 29 categories.

In addition, the PLOI search results provide links to RMAP applications so that customers can display a location map or generate a map with travel directions, time estimates, and distances. Customers need only a Web browser (Internet Explorer 6+ or Netscape 6+) to access the RMAP or the PLOI Guide that is hosted on the County's Geographic Information Server  
(<http://gis.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/gis/ploi.asp>).

RMAP and PLOI Guide data and applications were created using GIS, web design, and database software on both Windows and Unix operating systems. The applications were designed using Microsoft

Frontpage, RouteMap IMS, and programmed using Active Server Page (ASP) technology, cascading style sheets, server-side include files, and Hypertext Markup Language (HTML). The databases were maintained or managed using ArcView 3.3, ArcGIS 8.3 and managed using Microsoft Access 2000 and RouteMap IMS 2.5 software. In addition, Structured Query Language (SQL) technology was used to access geo-spatial databases (Access and Oracle) through Open Database Connectivity (ODBC) over the County T3 network.

Customers no longer need to contact DTS-GIS staff to provide PLOI-related data or to perform general routing or mapping tasks. Instead, they need only use their Web browser to quickly search or browse the PLOI Guide for location address and contact information or to open RMAP to generate maps and travel directions, distances, and time estimates.

These Web applications improve customer service by providing around the clock access to accurate geo-spatial data, information, and interactive mapping service technology, while reducing the demand on staff time and resources spent on processing related information, routing, or mapping requests.

With RMAP and PLOI Guide deployed on the County Internet Web site, County residents can quickly locate any of the 1800+ places of interest and obtain the travel directions to the places selected. It is a useful tool set for County employees as well as residents.

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